

## INDEPENDENCE

(By Brandon Wells)

The issue of becoming independent from foreign energy is challenging, but vital. The fact remains: if we do not break away from foreign oil soon, we may fall into an economic depression far greater than Americans have ever known. Gasoline prices are substantially inflated; many families are finding it difficult to budget for the commute to and from work. What can we, as American citizens, do to halt this crisis and put an end to insane oil prices?

One solution to the challenge of making our own less expensive fuel comes straight from Indiana farmers. Biodiesel fuel is a diesel fuel made from organic feedstock. It includes soybeans, animal renderings, and salvaged oil from restaurants. It is domestically produced. Therefore, every gallon of biodiesel fuel takes the place of imported fuels, thus ensuring American dollars remain in the American economy.

A considerable advantage of biodiesel fuel over gasoline and regular diesel fuels is that biodiesel emits far lower emissions, ensuring cleaner air for both present and future generations. Also, it has better lubricity characteristics, which means less wear on engine parts such as fuel injectors and fuel injection pumps. Biodiesel fuels are compatible with all modern diesel engines and fuel systems.

There is a clear and definite need to concentrate on breaking away from foreign oil consumption and imports. While the issue of fuel alternatives is great, Indiana farmers are growing answers for all of America right now. We cannot continue to depend on foreign lands to fuel our lives. America has historically fought for independence and once again, we find ourselves fighting. With the help of Indiana farmers, this battle can be won, and America will once again be independent . . . fuel independent.

## 2008-2009 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

## DISTRICT 1

Katlynn Surfus, Zachary Glick.

## DISTRICT 2

Kristi Brennan, Gabe Curtis.

## DISTRICT 3

Jessie LeBeau, Jonah Pritchett.

## DISTRICT 4

McKinzie Horoho, Trevor Homan.

## DISTRICT 5

Miranda Gerrard, Cameron Guernsey.

## DISTRICT 6

Kristen McCarthy, Jack Garner.

## DISTRICT 7

Riki Crowe, Ethan Fettig.

## DISTRICT 8

Morgan Tomson, Aaron Kaiser.

## DISTRICT 9

Lynnette Whitsitt, Brandon Wells.

## DISTRICT 10

Amy Burbrink, Zach Carter.

## 2008-2009 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

## BOONE

Cameron Guernsey, Western Boone Junior High School.

## BROWN

Haley O'Neil, home schooled.

## CLARK

Geoff Rafail and Morgan Mast, Borden Junior High School.

## CLAY

Brandon Crowley and Saiti Booe, Clay City Junior High School.

## DECATUR

Morgan Tomson, South Decatur Junior High School.

## DUBOIS

Lynnette Whitsitt, Southridge Middle School.

## FLOYD

Weston Spalding and Erin Duncan, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

## FRANKLIN

Aaron Kaiser, Mount Carmel School; and Claire McKamey, St. Michael School.

## GREENE

Ethan Fettig, Linton-Stockton Junior High School; and Riki Crowe, White River Valley Junior High School.

## HAMILTON

Nicholas Jeffers and Kara Linton, St. Maria Goretti School.

## HANCOCK

Joshua Hanselman and McKenzie Qualkinbush, Doe Creek Middle School.

## HENDRICKS

Drake Whicker, Cascade Middle School; and Jaclin Byrne, Tri-West Middle School.

## HENRY

Jack Garner and Brooke Ballard, Tri Junior High School.

## HOWARD

Austin Dishon, Northwestern Middle School; and McKinzie Horoho, Eastern Junior High School.

## JACKSON

Zach Carter, Immanuel Lutheran School; and Avri Hackman, Lutheran Central School.

## JASPER

Hunter Hickman and Tori Bryja, Rensselaer Middle School.

## JAY

Trevor Homan and Miranda Reinhart, East Jay Middle School.

## JENNINGS

Tanner Steele and Amy Burbrink, St. Mary School.

## LAKE

Zachary Glick and Alejandra Almendarez, Our Lady of Grace School.

## MARION

James Wang, Sycamore School; and Kristen McCarthy, St. Jude School.

## MONROE

Logan Letner and Allie Jones, Batchelor Middle School.

## NOBLE

Gabe Curtis and Kristi Brennan, St. Mary of the Assumption School.

## PARKE

Will Harrison and Kendall Davies, Rockville Junior High School.

## PERRY

Hunter Sandage, Tell City Junior High School.

## POSEY

Brandon Wells and Stephanie Cook, North Posey Junior High School.

## SCOTT

Hunter Steinkamp and Raven Alcorn, Scottsburg Middle School.

## STARKE

Katlynn Surgus, Knox Middle School.

## SULLIVAN

Harley-Alden Robert Davis and Savana Strain, Rural Community Academy.

## SWITZERLAND

Devin Coy and Olivia Hewitt, Switzerland County Middle School.

## VERMILLION

Dillon Boling and Abigail Calvin, North Vermillion Junior High School.

## WABASH

Trae Cole and Alyssa Richter, Northfield Junior High School.

## WARREN

Miranda Gerrard, Seeger Junior High School.

## WAYNE

Henry Dickman and Katy Robinson, Seton Catholic Junior High School.

## WELLS

Anna Gerber, Kingdom Academy.

## WHITE

Jonah Pritchett and Jessie Lebeau, Tri County Junior High School.●

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendments of the House to the bill (S.386) entitled "An Act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes."

## ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 386. An act to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities, and commodities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 896. An act to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

## ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 19, 2009, she had presented